



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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1870-01-29

**Letter from John Muir to Emily [O. Pelton], 1870 Jan 29.**

John Muir

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**Recommended Citation**

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Oakland, Jan. 22, '70.

Dear John Muir,

I think of you as far too blessed to need words from the lower world, and yet I meant to send many and oft repeated greetings to your winter quarters. I think with delight how the winter home looks, of little brown "Squirrel" in the glow of the firelight, of the long walks, and readings, and thinkings -- the morning tintings of the rocks, the comforting warmth of the pines and firs. (I never felt as warm as in the pine woods in winter). Well, I could wish I were there, but the dear ones would miss me, and I have not exhausted the beauty my soul stored up last year. Sunday Mr. Ackerson was here, my friend with whom I went to the Redwoods, and yesterday I lunched with one of our Yosemite party, and I overheard Dr. Carr say to some of the ladies that he would probably go to Yosemite himself next summer. Mrs. Brummage of Bear Valley was talking it all over the other day, and I think I shall know how to go another time, with more economy of time, fatigue, and money. I shall buy my mule, and keep clear of company, though really I had nothing to complain of before. I only mean to say that I will make my allowance carry me farther another time.

My winter delight is in studying Palms, from books of course, but I have had a good time over Rumphius's 'Flora Javonensis.' Those orchids! Those Calami! -- the heart of the world is in that mysterious Eastern Archipelago. Don't you want to see Oreodoxa Regia? and those wonderful Hoyas? I dream and dream what I shall say to them.

John Muir, I wish I could tell you how full of God his Universe seemed when I stood on that little bridge by the Nevada fall. I never was interfused with the interior life of things as that day. A thousand years even as one day -- and the people I knew in the bygone ages so shadowy and unreal. After we returned to Hutchings I walked in the gloaming

[Rest of letter evidently lost]

[Jeanne C. Carr]

[See Muir's letter of Dec. 6 '69].